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MADIGAN: CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER RULED SEXUALLY VIOLENT

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that a Peoria County jury found a registered sex offender a Sexually Violent Person (SVP) following a three-day trial.

Following the jury's decision today, Peoria County Circuit Court Judge Albert L. Purham, Jr. ruled that Kirk Burks, 49, of Peoria, Ill., must remain in the custody of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for treatment. Following the judge's verdict, Burks was returned to the IDHS SVP Treatment and Detention Facility in Rushville, Ill.

"This offender has a history of preying upon young girls and women and should not be allowed to reenter the community," Madigan said.

Under the Sexually Violent Persons Act, Madigan's office prosecutes cases seeking to commit offenders to the custody of IDHS as SVPs. To be committed under the act, a person must have been convicted of a sexually violent offense and suffer from a mental disorder. Additionally, prosecutors must prove that the offender is likely to commit future acts of sexual violence if released from custody. Once committed to IDHS, offenders are re-evaluated on a regular basis to determine if they continue to meet the criteria for commitment as a sexually violent person.

In 2008, Burks was convicted of aggravated criminal sexual abuse and criminal sexual abuse against two young women ages 18 and 15. Previously in 1992, Burks was convicted of aggravated criminal sexual abuse of three girls, who were 13 years old and younger.

Since the law's enactment, over 400 convicted sex offenders have been committed pursuant to the Sexually Violent Persons Act. Madigan's office currently has an additional 191 petitions filed with courts around Illinois seeking commitment of offenders who otherwise would be released from prison.

Assistant Attorneys General Robert Hollinshead and Kelly Taylor are handling the case for Madigan's Sexually Violent Persons Bureau.

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